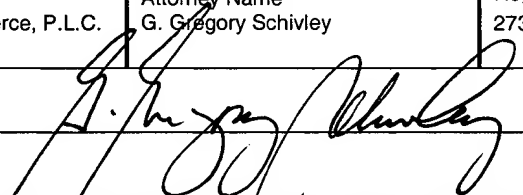
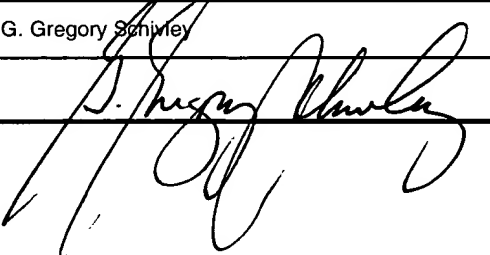


TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/977,158	
	Filing Date	October 11, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Lai et al.	
	Group Art Unit	1763	
	Examiner Name	Sylvia R. MacArthur	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6	Attorney Docket Number	4675-000373

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Acknowledgement Postcard.
Remarks		The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name G. Gregory Schivley	Reg. No. 27382
Signature			
Date	February 2, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.			
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/977,158
Filing Date: October 11, 2001
Applicant: Lai et al.
Group Art Unit: 1763
Examiner: Sylvia R. MacArthur
Title: Wafer Thinning Techniques
Attorney Docket: 4675-000373

Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 8, 2004, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.